

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3986

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ZAGREB 774

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR BEXP YO US

SUBJ: CONSULATE PROTESTS NORTH KOREAN ANTI-US MATERIALS AND
PHOTO DISPLAY AT ZAGREB INTERNATIONAL FALL FAIR

1. IMMEDIATELY UPON CONFIRMATION OF A REPORT THAT THE
NORTH KOREANS AT THEIR EXHIBIT AT THE ZAGREB INTERNATIONAL
FALL FAIR WERE DISPLAYING PHOTOGRAPHS WITH CAPTIONS
ATTACKING THE US AND DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS WHICH CONTAINED
OUTRAGEOUS COMMENTS ABOUT THE US,
AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR (WHO WAS PRESENT),
THE CONSUL GENERAL SOUGHT
AND OBTAINED AN APPOINTMENT WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
ZAGREB FAIR JURICIC AT NOON, SEPTEMBER 13. THE CONSUL
GENERAL ACCOMPANIED BY BPAO DALY, PROTESTED TO JURICIC THE
INADMISSIBLE PHOTO DISPLAY AND THE PROPAGANDISTIC PAMPHLETS
AT THE NORTH KOREAN EXHIBIT. THE CONSUL GENERAL NOTED THAT
HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT FAIR AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN
ALERT TO SUCH CONTRAVENTIONS OF THEIR OWN REGULATIONS
AND WOULD HAVE ACTED TO ELIMINATE SUCH HIGHLY OFFENSIVE
IRREGULARITIES. HE NOTED THAT SUCH AN OCCURRENCE
IS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE COMING AS IT DOES WHEN
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THE US GOVERNMENT HAS UNDER REVIEW THE QUESTION OF

CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AT THE ZAGREB FALL FAIR.
HE REQUESTED JURICIC TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO
ASSURE THAT THE OFFENSIVE PICTURES AND ANTI-US
PAMPHLETS WERE REMOVED AND THAT THE ZAGREB FAIR AUTHORITIES
INSIST ON STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE FAIR RULES BY THE
NORTH KOREANS.

2. JURICIC WAS VISIBLY SURPRISED TO HEAR ABOUT THE
NORTH KOREAN EXHIBIT. HE CRITICIZED MEMBERS OF HIS
STAFF, WHO WERE PRESENT, FOR HAVING FAILED TO DISCOVER
AND INFORM HIM OF THE NORTH KOREAN IRREGULARITIES. HE
ASSURED THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT THE NORTH KOREAN DISPLAYS AS
DESCRIBED, WERE IN FACT A CONTRAVENTION OF THE RULES.
HE GAVE ASSURANCES THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN
EVEN IF IT MEANT CLOSING THE NORTH KOREAN EXHIBIT.

3. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 13, WE WERE TOLD
BY THE FAIR AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAD NOTIFIED THE NORTH
KOREANS OF THE NECESSITY TO CONFORM WITH THE RULES OF
THE FAIR AND REQUESTED THEM TO TAKE DOWN THE OFFENSIVE
PHOTOGRAPHS AND REMOVE THE PAMPHLETS. THIS MORNING,
SEPTEMBER 14, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN EXHIBITS AT THE FAIR
MARUSIC INFORMED US THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE NOT YET
COMPLIED WITH THE FAIR MANAGEMENT'S REQUESTS. THE NORTH
KOREANS SAID THEY COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT PRIOR
AUTHORIZATION FROM THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN BELGRADE.
MARUSIC TOLD US THAT THE FAIR AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMED THE
SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CROATIA MAJERIC ABOUT
THIS MATTER AND HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
IN BELGRADE REQUESTING APPROPRIATE ACTION THERE.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, IN THE ABSENCE OF
COMPLIANCE BY THE NORTH KOREANS THE FAIR AUTHORITIES
HAVE BLOCKED OFF WITH UNIFORMED FAIR POLICE, ACCESS BY
THE PUBLIC TO THE OFFENDING SECTION OF THE NORTH KOREAN
EXHIBIT.
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